UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,190	01/31/2002	Hung-Liang Chiu	21553-1/2408P	5275

29141 7590 06/07/2004	EXAMINER
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP	LU, KIJEN S
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	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PALO ALTO, CA 94303	2177	2

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

Office Action Summary	Application N● 10/066,190	Applicant(s) CHIU ET AL.
	Examiner Kuen S Lu	Art Unit 2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _31 January 2002_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-4, 7 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over OraMRP (Oracle® Master Scheduling/MRP and Oracle Supply Chain Planning

User's Guide, Release 11i, Volume 1, February 2001, ORACLE, hereafter "OraMRP")

and further in view of Cromer et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0046156 A1, hereafter

"Cromer").

As per Claims 1, 7 and 14, OraMRP teaches the following:

"A method for material inventory control, allowing a manufacturer to maintain safe and

efficient material stock" at Page 2-2 by loading forecasts, together with sales order into

master demand and production schedules to derive material requirement planning;

"(a) receiving production management data" at Page 3-2 where Master Demand

Schedule information supplying details of anticipated shipping schedule and all sources

of demand are provided as production management data for consolidation;

"(b) calculating usage quantities of materials in customer's order data and estimated

order data from the production management data according to material codes and a

production schedule, wherein each of the materials is designated by a unique material

code for identification purpose" at Pages 2-20 and 2-23 where sales order and forecast

order (estimated order) data are used to calculate the forecast control and consumption

data, and used for production planning (Page 9-4), and at Page 13-6 where item code

and alphanumeric name is utilized to identify an item in sub-inventory process;

"(c) deducting the calculated usage quantities from stock amounts of the corresponding

materials according to the material codes and the production schedule, where in the

material stock amounts are retrieved from material stock data of the production

management data" by combining the following: calculating safety stock quantities (Page

10-15), updating master demand schedule by subtracting shipping from master demand

quantities until reaching sales order quantities (Page 3-32) and updating forecast

(estimated) order quantities by subtracting daily consumed (sales order) quantities from

the forecast (Pages 2-20 to 2-23);

"(d) generating material inventory reports composed of the deducted results" at Pages

15-22 to 15-60 where various forecast, order and scheduling reports are requested

through submission with appropriate parameters to generate the reports and at Page

15-12 (Supply Chain) Demand vs. Replenishment; and

"storing the material inventory reports into an inventory database" at Pages 15-1 and

15-2 where inventory reports are requested from the inventory system.

OraMRP does not teach "(e) linking the inventory database to a web-site server

module, wherein the web-site server module is connected to a network system allowing

the manufacturer to browse and retrieve the material inventory reports stored in the

inventory database by using a web browser through the network system, so as to

realize current status of material inventory and implement timely procurement of materials insufficient in the production schedule".

However, Cromer teaches "(e) linking the inventory database to a web-site server module, wherein the web-site server module is connected to a network system" at Fig. 1, elements 10-12 and 16-17 where server includes a web server module and communication link which is an internet link and "allowing the manufacturer to browse and retrieve the material inventory reports stored in the inventory database by using a web browser through the network system, so as to realize current status of material inventory and implement timely procurement of materials insufficient in the production schedule" at Pages 4-5, [0052] and [0059] by using web browser hardware and software to retrieve data from inventory, reviewing inventory and placing order.

As per claim 2, OraMRP teaches "the production management data include customer's order data received by a sales department of the manufacture, estimated order data projected by the sales department, and material stock data provided by an inventory management department of the manufacturer" at Pages 2-20 to 2-34 where sales order quantities and estimated order quantities are obtained and loaded into master demand scheduling module while stock quantities are obtained by a combination of the following: calculating safety stock quantities (Page 10-15), updating master demand schedule by subtracting shipping from master demand quantities until reaching sales order quantities (Page 3-32) and updating forecast (estimated) order quantities by subtracting daily consumed (sales order) quantities from the forecast (Pages 2-20 to 2-23). The OraMRP reference does not specifically teach organization chart or functions

of each business unit, although OraMRP associates resource requirement for various

resources with org and dept/div at Page 6-69. It would have been obvious to the

ordinary skilled in the art of the business operation and enterprise management the

departments responsible for the quantities for sales order, estimated order and stock

inventory are depending on the organization chart of an enterprise, size of the

organization, and its appropriate functional and operation charts of business units.

As per claims 3 and 15, Cromer further teaches "the network system is internet or

intranet" at Fig. 1, elements 10-12 and 16-17 where server includes a web server

module and communication link is an internet link.

As per claims 4 and 16, Cromer further teaches "the web-site server module is a web

site server" Fig. 1, elements 10-12 and 16-17 where server includes a web server

module.

2. Claims 5-6, 8-13 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over OraMRP (Oracle® Master Scheduling/MRP and Oracle Supply Chain

Planning User's Guide, Release 11i, Volume 1, February 2001, ORACLE, hereafter

"OraMRP") in view of Cromer et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0046156 A1, hereafter

"Cromer"), as applied to claims 1-4, 7 and 14-16, and further in view of Nachman et al.

(U.S. Publication 2001/0027474 A1, hereafter "Nachman").

As per claims 5-6, 12-13 and 17-18, the combined OraMRP-Cromer does not

specifically teach web browser is Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator,

although Cromer teaches client computer using web browser to communicate server for

accessing document at Page 8, [0064].

However, Nachman teaches Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator are the web browsers at Page 1, [0004].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine the references of Nachman, Cromer and OraMRP for selecting either web browser for the OraMRP system because all three references are devoted to business operations (OraMRP: master scheduling/MRP and supply chain at Page ii, Cromer: processing and transportation documentation, load planning, product shipment and delivery control at the Abstract, and Nachman: securing e-commerce content to specific user, group or users at the Abstract). The combined reference would have enabled OraMRP an internet enabled MRP system available to users anywhere and anytime.

As per claims 8 and 9, OraMRP teaches "material stock data include current stock data of a material and a substituent material that is replaceably used in place of the former material" at Page 2-56 where item VGA is an option class with available and optional sub-items VGA1 and VGA2 and Page 1-30 showing replacement code for a demand class.

As per claims 10 and 11, OraMRP teaches "" at Page 15-8 where current projected on hand and projected available report has item as a parameter for requesting the report and at Page 13-6 where item code and alphanumeric name is utilized to identify an item in sub-inventory process.

Conclusions

4. The prior art made of record

U. Oracle® Master Scheduling/MRP and Oracle Supply Chain Planning User's Guide,

Release 11i, Volume 1, February 2001, ORACLE

A. U.S. Publication 2003/0046156

B. U.S. Publication 2001/0027474

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

C. U.S. Patent 6,188,991

D. U.S. Patent 6,647,380

E. U.S. Publication 2002/0002517

F. U.S. Patent 6,324,522

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 703-305-4894. The

examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Kuen S. L

Patent Examiner

June 2, 2004

SRIRAMA CHANNAVAJJALA
PRIMARY EXAMINER